

Honoring Our Fallen Heroes Act of 2023

Section 1. SHORT TITLE

- This bill can be cited as the Honoring Our Fallen Heroes Act of 2023.

Section 2. CANCER-RELATED DEATHS

- Defines exposure-related cancers, carcinogens, and the term Director (referring to the Director of the Bureau of Justice Assistance).
 - Covers cancers which were identified as related to occupational exposure by Sec. 5305 of James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023.
 - Additionally covers breast cancer, ovarian cancer, cervical cancer, and any form of cancer considered a WTC-related health condition by the World Trade Center Health Program.
- Provides a presumption that a public safety officer's death or permanent and total disability due to exposure-related cancer is a personal injury sustained in the line of duty under the Public Safety Officers' Benefits (PSOB) program if certain conditions are met.
 - To qualify for the presumption, the individual must have served for at least 5 years as a public safety officer prior to the date of their diagnosis. The individual must have been diagnosed not later than 15 years after the last date of active service as a public safety officer.
 - The presumption does not apply if competent medical evidence establishes that the cancer was unrelated to the exposure or contact in the line of duty.
- Allows for the periodic review and addition of exposure-related cancers to the definition by the Director, based on the best available scientific evidence.
 - Any person can petition the Director to add a type of exposure-related cancer to the definition, and the Director must provide a substantive decision within 180 days of receipt.

Section 3. TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS

- Amends the Safeguarding America's First Responders Act of 2020, which provides a presumption for death or permanent and total disability due to COVID-19, to ensure the term 'line of duty action' includes any action in which a public safety officer engages at the direction of their employer.